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LB 1038, 1073

with 1038?

SENATOR LANDIS: There is a fiscal note, and the fiscal note can be divided into two sections. One of the fiscal note's aspect makes reference to the \$90,000 that was subsequently asked for from the Appropriations Committee, which I understand is in the mainline budget. So that really has been taken care of. The Court Administrator's Office initially said that there might be the need of an additional person to help with the maintenance of rosters. That office does not support that notion. And I intend to, before an A bill is submitted on 1073 on Select File, to have a discussion with the Court Administrator's Office. Their indication would be someplace in the range of \$23,000 for the bill. I know from talking to the staff they think they can do this work without additional appropriation. And I would like to be able to get the Court Administrator to verify that to our own legislative fiscal people, and I think that will happen by Select File. If that does not happen, Senator Maurstad, I would be happy to make that clear on the basis, on Select File, if I have triggered a financial increase in costs. I think that cool heads will prevail and this A bill will disappear.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. And I expected that kind of response from you. Do you have any idea what...it's my understanding that the mediation centers and those that are providing the mediation services are under quite a bit of stress now relative to being able to meet the demand that they have out there. How do you think this will affect that particular circumstance?

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Maurstad, I do think that the mediators...mediation centers are stretched, but they're not stretched at the point of having mediators to mediate, those are volunteers, and they're relatively well staffed on that score. The place where there's a bottleneck inside the system now is at the director level, the administrative level. And while I confess that this will add to their duties, the centers themselves are enthusiastic about the prospect of doing the work. In the event the mainline budget goes forward as it is currently now written, I think whatever tension there would be between passing this amendment and the existing system will be easily handled.